

Intelligence Agency Cancels Interviews To Prevent Possible Demonstrations

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By OREN ROOT

The Central Intelligence Agency will hold its recruiting interviews for Columbia students on December 14 and 15 off the University campus, Harry Russell, the CIA's personnel field representative for New England and New York, said Friday.

Mr. Russell said the decision to move the interviews off campus was made at his initiative.

The interviews had originally been scheduled to take place in Dodge Hall, as they have been for some years. Mr. Russell said the move off the Columbia campus should not be considered a permanent policy.

The reason for the change, he explained, was "the simple fact the agency is not interested in being the focal point for demonstrations."

"The University went along with it," he added. "I suppose they think it's a good idea."

Mr. Russell, who will conduct the interview himself, said he thought

the recruiting would take place at the CIA's "local personnel office," but he refused to disclose the location of that office. Students will be referred to the CIA office by the University's Office of Placement and Career Planning.

Mrs. Athena Constantine, director of the placement office, confirmed Friday that the change in location was made at the CIA's request. Miss Jean Ayres, coordinator of recruiting for the placement office, said that the request had been made last week, but that final arrangements still had not been completed.

Both Mrs. Constantine and Miss Ayres said that they believed that the interviews would be in the government agency's regional office in New York.

Asked whether the placement office would screen persons carefully who express an interest in seeing Mr. Russell, Miss Ayres replied, "Very much so."

She said that students who express an interest in seeing the CIA will probably be asked to produce identification cards to prove they are Columbia students, and will then be asked to state the

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reason for their interest in the recruiting.

Miss Ayres explained that the precautions would be taken "for the sake of our office and the University so there will be a minimum of confusion."

Mrs. Constantine said of the change in location, "If this will avoid any kind of demonstration on campus, I'm all for it."

The CIA recently announced that it was moving recruiting activities to off-campus locations at six other universities in the country to avoid "embarrassing confrontations." The announcement did not mention Columbia.

Sixteen students sat in last February and successfully blocked CIA recruiting on campus. Previous to that, in November, Mr. Russell cancelled some scheduled interviews when approximately two hundred protesting students entered Dodge Hall to "ask him a few questions."

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